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# The CIA's Bout With Fulbright An Old Story

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ONE OF THE more persistent burrs under Congress' saddle is the fact that it has little or nothing to say about the operations of the supersecret Central Intelligence Agency.

The sort point festered again last week during the Senate debate over confirmation of John A. McCone as the new CIA director to succeed Allan Dulles.

The Senate's traditional power of "advise and consent" on such appointments is one of the few instances the Congress can exercise any control over the agency, its operations or finances.

There are, however, a few privileged senators and House members who are more privy to inner CIA workings than their fellows. One of them is Senator J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

But Fulbright still has misgivings about the immunity of the intelligence agency from congressional kibitzing.

In fact Fulbright said on the floor of the Senate during the McCone debate: "I was, and still am, very sympathetic to the idea of a joint committee . . . which legally could have responsibility for the supervision of CIA."

He was co-sponsor of a resolution several years ago to create a Senate-House committee to oversee CIA operations. The resolution lacks support, and any action on it this year seems unlikely according to Fulbright.

The burr continues to irritate, though, and another Senator said privately last week: "If these CIA people are not candid and honest with our committees, then a majority of Congress won't be willing to do as we have in the past. Then you'll get a joint committee on CIA just like the Joint Atomic Energy Committee."

Whether or not this ever comes to pass, there was speculation last week that Fulbright, by refusing to swallow McCone whole, may get a little more cooperation from the new CIA director than Dulles was ever willing to give.

In  
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